

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel Claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, the same being replaced by new Independent Claim 26.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancel)
2. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 1 ~~±~~ 26, wherein the sealing element comprises a radial flange, which is disposed on ~~an also a~~ a radially aligned support surface of the rotor housing, and ~~which~~
wherein the sealing element comprises a tube-like area arranged at the collar for defining the second sealing gap.
3. (Original) An arrangement according to claim 2, wherein the radial flange is pressed to the support surface by at least one spring element.
4. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 1 ~~±~~ 26, wherein the sealing element comprises an essentially radially extending sealing surface which together with a rear wall of the spinning rotor forms a third sealing gap.

5. (Original) An arrangement according to claim 2, wherein the sealing element comprises an essentially radially extending sealing surface which together with a rear wall of the spinning rotor forms a third sealing gap.

6. (Original) An arrangement according to claim 3, wherein the sealing element comprises an essentially radially extending sealing surface which together with a rear wall of the spinning rotor forms a third sealing gap.

7. (Original) An arrangement according to claim 4, wherein the sealing surface is provided with a hollow cylindrical extension which envelopes a cylindrical area of the rear wall.

8. (Original) An arrangement according to claim 5, wherein the sealing surface is provided with a hollow cylindrical extension which envelopes a cylindrical area of the rear wall.

9. (Original) An arrangement according to claim 6, wherein the sealing surface is provided with a hollow cylindrical extension which envelopes a cylindrical area of the rear wall.

10. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 4, wherein the sealing surface is arranged ~~at~~ as an exchangeable part which is connectable to the sealing element.

11. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 5, wherein the sealing surface is arranged ~~at~~ as an exchangeable part which is connectable to the sealing element.

12. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 6, wherein the sealing surface is arranged ~~at~~ as an exchangeable part which is connectable to the sealing element.

13. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 7, wherein the sealing surface is arranged ~~at~~ as an exchangeable part which is connectable to the sealing element.

14. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 8, wherein the sealing surface is arranged ~~at~~ as an exchangeable part which is connectable to the sealing element.

15. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 9, wherein the sealing surface is arranged ~~at~~ as an exchangeable part which is connectable to the sealing element.

16. (Original) An arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the exchangeable part is pressed onto a tube-like area of the sealing element.

17. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 11, wherein the exchangeable part is pressed onto a said tube-like area of the sealing element.

18. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 12, wherein the exchangeable part is pressed onto a said tube-like area of the sealing element.

19. (Original) An arrangement according to claim 13, wherein the exchangeable part is pressed onto a tube-like area of the sealing element.

20. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 14, wherein the exchangeable part is pressed onto a said tube-like area of the sealing element.

21. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 15, wherein the exchangeable part is pressed onto a said tube-like area of the sealing element.

22. (Currently Amended) A unitary sealing element operable in use to seal an open end spinning rotor assembly having a rotor shaft supporting a rotor cup with respect to flow of air through a housing opening which in use is penetrated by the rotor shaft,

said unitary sealing element being a free floating sealing element which in use forms a first annular radial sealing gap between the rotor shaft and the

sealing element and a second annular radial sealing gap between the sealing element and a ring collar connecting the rotor cup and rotor shaft.

23. (Original) A unitary sealing element according to claim 22, wherein the sealing element comprises a radial flange, which is disposed on an also radially aligned support surface of the housing, and which comprises a tube-like area arranged at the collar.

24. (Original) A unitary sealing element according to claim 22, wherein the sealing element comprises an essentially radially extending sealing surface which together with a rear wall of the spinning rotor forms a third sealing gap.

25. (Original) A unitary sealing element according to claim 23, wherein the sealing element comprises an essentially radially extending sealing surface which together with a rear wall of the spinning rotor forms a third sealing gap.

26. (New) A sealing arrangement for a rotor housing for an open end spinning rotor having a rotor cup and a rotor shaft,

wherein a vacuum prevails in said housing during spinning operations and said rotor housing is provided with an opening for the rotor shaft supported outside of said rotor housing, and

wherein a first radial sealing gap is formed between the rotor shaft and a freely floating sealing element attached to the rotor housing and a second radial

sealing gap is formed between the same freely floating sealing element and a collar of the rotor cup from which collar the rotor shaft extends.

27. (New) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 26, wherein said freely floating sealing element is made of plastic.

28. (New) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 26, wherein said collar has a larger diameter than said rotor shaft.

29. (New) A sealing arrangement according to Claim 27, wherein said collar has a larger diameter than said rotor shaft.

30. (New) An arrangement for sealing an opening of a rotor housing in which a vacuum prevails, through which opening a shaft, supported outside of the rotor housing, projects, said arrangement comprising at least two sealing gaps, of which a first sealing gap is formed between the shaft and a sealing element free floating in relation to the opening, while a second sealing gap is formed with a ring collar of the spinning rotor bordering on the shaft, wherein the second sealing gap is also formed with the same free floating sealing element,

wherein the sealing element comprises an essentially radially extending sealing surface which together with a rear wall of the spinning rotor forms a third sealing gap, and

wherein the sealing surface is provided with a hollow cylindrical extension which envelopes a cylindrical area of the rear wall.

31. (New) An arrangement according to Claim 30, wherein the sealing element comprises a radial flange, which is disposed on an also radially aligned support surface of the rotor housing, and which comprises a tube-like area arranged at the collar.

32. (New) An arrangement according to Claim 31, wherein the radial flange is pressed to the support surface by at least one spring element.

33. (New) An arrangement according to Claim 30, wherein the sealing surface is arranged at an exchangeable part which is connectable to the sealing element.

34. (New) An arrangement for sealing an opening of a rotor housing in which a vacuum prevails, through which opening a shaft, supported outside of the rotor housing, projects, said arrangement comprising at least two sealing gaps, of which a first sealing gap is formed between the shaft and a sealing element free floating in relation to the opening, while a second sealing gap is formed with a ring collar of the spinning rotor bordering on the shaft, wherein the second sealing gap is also formed with the same free floating sealing element,

wherein the sealing element comprises an essentially radially extending sealing surface which together with a rear wall of the spinning rotor forms a third sealing gap;

wherein the sealing surface is arranged as an exchangeable part which is connectable to the sealing element; and

wherein the exchangeable part is pressed onto a tube-like area of the sealing element.